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 AUTHOR : E. LIPOWIECKA
 TRANSLATED BY : D. NOWAKOWSKA

ANNOUNCER: Ewa Lipowiecka reports from New York:

NARRATOR: A conference is currently in progress in Washington concerning equal chances of employment for both Negroes and white people. On Friday, President Johnson addressed the several hundred activists, clergymen, teachers and representatives of the economic world, who are participating in this conference, and brought up the matter of the recent riots in Los Angeles. The acts of violence committed there -- he stressed -- have nothing in common with the legitimate struggle for civil rights for Negroes which has been going on for the last 10 years. The President warned that several hours of such riots and terrorism could ruin the immense capital of good will which has been accumulated during those years. In a voice touched with emotion, President Johnson stated:

"The rioter with a Molotov cocktail in his hand is not fighting for civil rights, just as the hooded member of the Ku Klux Klan isn't fighting for them. Both are just violators of the public peace and order, destroyers of constitutional rights and civic freedoms, both are jeopardizing the freedom of this country. Both should be condemned and subdued."

The President described the Civil Rights Bill which was adopted last year as the key which opened the gate to hope for millions of Americans. A key which can open the gate from the ghetto of hopelessness, but only for those who are prepared to accept the responsibilities which go along with the rights which the new bill bestows upon them. It is for this sense of responsibility that both the President and the Negro leaders are appealing to the Negro masses, realizing that the achievement of real equality between black and white calls for earnest effort on both sides.

The present conference in Washington is one such collective effort, among many others. It studies the possibilities and means of a broader employment of the Negroes and the raising of their economic standard. But even with the best of will, this cannot be achieved overnight -- without a previous raising of the level of their education and stimulating a sense of civic responsibility among the masses. Very recently, already after the Los Angeles riots, one of the top Negro leaders, the chairman of the so-called Municipal League, Roy Wilkins, appealed to his fellow Negroes in the following manner:

The government and the nation have a right to expect that the Negroes will show coresponsibility and will fulfill their tasks in this historic march towards a better future.

That is why responsible Negro leaders consider the latest incidents as a defeat and not a victory, and the acts of violence and terrorism as a symptom which casts a dark shadow on the constructive efforts and devoted activity of all those who aspire towards progress through patient work and legal methods.

Good will and encouragement is not lacking on the part of the authorities and the enlightened section of the white population. Eight months ago, the Department of Labor allotted nearly half a million dollars to vocational training for unskilled Negro workers in one city alone, that is, Philadelphia. Similar endeavors are being made in all the bigger towns of the north. In June of this year, an inter-racial council was established for promoting economic possibilities for Negroes. It is headed by Rodman Rockefeller, the son of the governor of New York, and Harvey Russell, the Vice President of the Pepsi-Cola Company. Fourteen banking houses are working together with this council, whose task it is to back up Negro enterprises, get profitable loans for them and offer them advice. There are more and more initiatives of this kind now.

The efforts towards the achievement of full employment for Negroes are hampered by the fact that this coincides with the progress in the field of automation. There is less and less need for muscular effort in the American economy. That is why the responsible Negro leaders, and the whites who cooperate with them, consider it so important to promote study among them and make professional training accessible to them. That is why Roy Wilkins stressed, with satisfaction, that, during the last 20 years, the number of Negroes with a higher education has doubled, and in the last decade the number of Negroes with an income bracket of \$5,000 and over has increased by an average 300% throughout the country.